

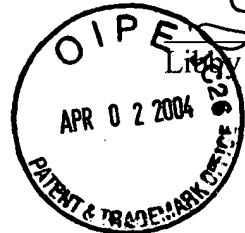
2833

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Ref. No.: 12439-0050

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on March 30, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Libby Hill

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/810,871 Confirmation No. 7472
Applicant : Eldridge et al.
Filed : March 16, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2833
Examiner : A. Gillman

Docket No. : P70-US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s).

Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
-- OR --
- ☒ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**

☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**

B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

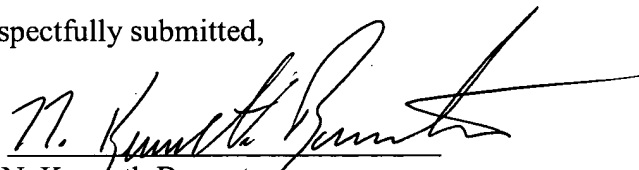
Fee:

☒ No fee is due.

☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2004

By 
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12439-0050

Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/810,871
				Filing Date	March 16, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Eldridge
				Group Art Unit	2833
				Examiner Name	A. Gillman
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	P70-US

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
	1	WO	00/01208		Pedersen	1/6/2000		
	2	WO	00/33096		Eldridge	6/8/2000		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.